

People to People

Overview

Students practice expectations of safety and respect while learning something new about one another in this energetic and fun game.

Grades

Any

Activity Type

Partner/Whole group

Materials

None

Duration

20 minutes

Procedure

1. Tell students that they will be playing a game called “People to People” and that the purpose of the game is to learn something new about each other, to practice expectations of safety and respect, and to have fun.
2. Instruct students to form a circle. Once formed, tell them to face a person on either side of them so that the group is now in a circle of partners. (Ideally, there will be an even number of partners in the circle with the leader in the middle. Tell students that you will call out various commands that they must follow in which they come into contact with one another. Give them several examples by saying “Finger to finger” (partners should touch their fingers together); “Elbow to elbow” (partners should touch their elbows together); “Knee to knee” (partners will touch a knee together); and so on.
3. Tell students that when they hear “People to People” however, that they must find a new partner and that it can’t be someone standing right beside them. Once in their partners, they must answer a question given to them by the teacher, such as “People to People: Tell your partner your favorite food!” Once partners have shared, the process continues with the teacher again calling several body parts and then “People to People”, and offering a new question for partner sharing. The tempo should remain fast passed and energetic.
4. Examples of People to People questions for partners to share amongst themselves are:
 - What is your favorite TV show?
 - What is a book you love?
 - What song makes you happy?
 - Who is someone you greatly admire and why?

- Say something positive about yourself!
 - What is your favorite thing to do after school?
 - Say something positive about your current partner!
5. If teachers are choosing to explore a particular topic with their students, this activity can be used as a warm-up to class by tailoring questions to that specific topic. For example, if you are talking about citizenship, questions could include:
- Name an important responsibility a citizen has.
 - Describe a time when you volunteered.
 - Why is it important to vote?
 - Why should we be involved in our local government?
6. This activity can also be used as a means of practicing/reviewing behavior expectations. For example, after playing the game, discuss with students:
- In order for us to safely play a game like that, where we are all moving and talking at once, what was required of each of us? (facilitate answers such as “we had to listen”, we had to participate, we were willing to work with everyone, we were careful not to run into each other, we were willing to share things about ourselves, etc.)
 - Why is it important to ensure that we are following behavior expectations? (facilitate student understanding that in order to do fun activities, there must be a level of trust among the group)
7. After playing this activity with your group once, the next time you might choose to have an odd number of people playing so that whoever ends up in the center gets to call the point of contact and the question to answer. If the teacher chooses to do this, it is advised to have a conversation with the class about appropriate contact and questions.